Amendments to the Claims

All cancelled claims are cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1 to 14 (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) A composition capable of lowering the expression of LIPG in a patient comprising a ribozyme which cleaves mRNA encoding LIPG.

16. (Currently amended) ~~The composition of Claim 15~~ A composition capable of lowering the expression of LIPG in a patient comprising an expression vector including a DNA sequence encoding ~~said ribozyme~~ a ribozyme which cleaves mRNA encoding LIPG.

Claims 17 to 21 (Cancelled)

22. (Original) A composition for increasing the enzymatic activity of LIPG polypeptide in a patient comprising an enhancer which binds to and enhances the enzymatic activity of the LIPG polypeptide.

Claims 23 to 43 (Cancelled)

44. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of Claim 23 further comprising administration of~~ A method for raising the level of high density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol and apolipoprotein AI in a patient comprising

administering to said patient a composition which lowers the enzymatic activity of LIPG in said patient and a composition capable of expressing apolipoprotein AI in said patient.

Claims 45 to 56 (Cancelled)

57. (Original) A method for lowering the level of LDL cholesterol in a patient comprising administering to the patient an enhancer which preferentially enhances the enzymatic reactions between LIPG polypeptide and LDL cholesterol relative to the enzymatic reactions between LIPG polypeptide and HDL cholesterol and apolipoprotein AI.

58. (Original) A method for lowering the level of VLDL cholesterol in a patient comprising administering to the patient an enhancer which preferentially enhances the enzymatic reactions between LIPG polypeptide and VLDL cholesterol relative to the enzymatic reactions between LIPG polypeptide and HDL cholesterol and apolipoprotein AI.

59. (Original) A method for diagnosing a predisposition to low HDL cholesterol and apolipoprotein AI levels comprising obtaining a tissue sample from a patient and measuring the level of LIPG polypeptide in said sample.

Claims 60 to 62 (Cancelled)

63. (Original) A method for determining whether a test compound can inhibit the enzymatic reaction between the LIPG polypeptide and HDL cholesterol and apolipoprotein AI comprising: (A) comparing the level of HDL cholesterol and

apolipoprotein AI in a first sample comprising: (1) HDL cholesterol and apolipoprotein AI, (2) LIPG polypeptide, and (3) said test compound with the level of HDL cholesterol and apolipoprotein AI in another sample comprising: (4) HDL cholesterol and apolipoprotein AI, and (5) LIPG polypeptide; and (B) identifying whether or not said test compound is effective in inhibiting the enzymatic reaction between the LIPG polypeptide and HDL cholesterol and apolipoprotein AI by observing whether or not the first sample has a higher level of HDL cholesterol and apolipoprotein AI than that of said other sample.

64. (Original) A method for determining whether a test compound can enhance the enzymatic reaction between the LIPG polypeptide and VLDL cholesterol comprising: (A) comparing the level of VLDL cholesterol in a first sample comprising: (1) VLDL cholesterol, (2) LIPG polypeptide, and (3) said test compound with the level of VLDL cholesterol in another sample comprising: (4) VLDL cholesterol, and (5) LIPG polypeptide; and (B) identifying whether or not said test compound is effective in enhancing the enzymatic reaction between the LIPG polypeptide and VLDL cholesterol by observing whether or not the first sample has a lower level of VLDL cholesterol than that of said other sample.

65. (Original) A method for determining whether a test compound can enhance the enzymatic reaction between the LIPG polypeptide and LDL cholesterol comprising: (A) comparing the level of LDL cholesterol in a first sample comprising: (1) LDL cholesterol, (2) LIPG polypeptide, and (3) said test compound with the level of LDL cholesterol in another sample comprising: (4) LDL cholesterol, and (5) LIPG polypeptide; and (B) identifying whether or not said test compound is effective in enhancing the enzymatic reaction between

the LIPG polypeptide and LDL cholesterol by observing whether or not the first sample has a lower level of LDL cholesterol than that of said other sample.

Claims 66 to 97 (Cancelled)

98. (New) A composition according to Claim 15 wherein said ribozyme is a hammerhead ribozyme.

99. (Reinstated - formerly Claim 17) A composition according to Claim 16 wherein said expression vector is selected from the group consisting of retroviral vectors, adenoviral vectors, adeno-associated viral vectors, herpesviral vectors, and naked DNA vectors.

100. (New) A method for raising the level of high density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol and apolipoprotein AI in a patient comprising administering to said patient a composition according to Claim 15.

101. (New) A method for raising the level of high density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol and apolipoprotein AI in a patient comprising administering to said patient a composition according to Claim 16.

102. (New) A method for raising the level of high density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol and apolipoprotein AI in a patient comprising administering to said patient a composition according to Claim 99.

103. (Reinstated - formerly Claim 60) The method of Claim 59 wherein said tissue is

blood.

104. (Reinstated - formerly Claim 61) The method of Claim 103 wherein the level of LIPG polypeptide in said sample is measured by an immunoassay.

105. (Reinstated - formerly Claim 62) The method of Claim 59 wherein the levels of LIPG polypeptide are measured by measuring the levels of LIPG mRNA.